

Weekly Meditation - February 24 2010
by Rev. Teri Lubbers

A Community of the Spirit

There is a community of the spirit. Join it, and feel the delight of walking in the noisy street, and being the noise. Drink all your passion, and be a disgrace. Close both eyes to see with the other eye. Open your hands, if you want to be held. Sit down in this circle. Quit acting like a wolf, and feel the shepherd's love filling you. ~ Rumi

This little excerpt of a Rumi poem conjures up so many images. Noisy street. Delight. Passion. Seeing with the heart. Lone wolf. Joining the circle. Blindfolded, I reach into this bowl of images and see which one I pull out... lone wolf wins... I imagine a wolf standing alone in a snowy landscape. Silent, with eyes that take you in and watch your every move. And when he's sure you're not a threat, he turns and walks away. He neither needs you nor seeks your company.

Do you remember the old Marlborough man commercials and magazine ads? The lone cowboy with his chaps and spurs and hat, smoking his Marlborough cigarettes under the open sky? That image sums up the culture I was raised in and how I was encouraged to be: rugged individualist, loner, self-sufficient person who needed no one and could handle anything.

Whose idea was it that we shouldn't need one another? That we shouldn't ask for help or directions? That we should go it alone? We were created for community. Community with God, with other people, with our own hearts.

This Lent we are focusing on community and how to be intentional about being relational in new ways. Simple, Rumi says: Open your hands if you want to be held. Sit down in this circle. Quit acting like a wolf... Sometimes we have to make the first move.

Prayer: God, help me to understand that needing other people isn't a weakness but a strength, an acknowledgement that you have made me for community. Help me open my hands and heart to those around me, and find my place in the circle. Fill me with your love. Amen.